

# **MINUTES**

## **THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI January 28, 2020**

### **INTRODUCTORY**

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on January 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Akers called the meeting to order with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and Jamie Rouch gave the invocation.

### **ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Lisa Westfall called roll: Mayor Edd Akers presiding, Kevin McConnell, Brian Clonts, Bob Simmons, Bill Skains, Larry Milton and Rick Castillon.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Akers began the Public Comments section of the Board of Aldermen meeting and stated in order to give everyone a chance to speak tonight, we would like to ask that if you are speaking on an item, that you keep your comments to the point and as short as possible. You will be allowed to only speak once on an item and please do not repeat what has already been said by another speaker. Once public discussion has ended on the item and the Board starts their discussion, no additional comments will be taken from the audience. Please remember to speak into the mic, state your name and address for the record. Please seek to follow our 5 minute guideline. However, if an Alderman wishes, they can ask the Chair to invite back to the podium for clarification on any item spoken about.

Betsy Seay, 1880 Pointe Royale Drive, Branson, Missouri, commented she supported the public safety sales tax 100% and while she didn't often support tax increases, she felt strongly this tax was needed. She explained as with any organization the more money brought in, the more oversight there should be on the funds, where they go and how they're spent. She mentioned personally asking for two things in order to support this tax, the first was ensuring the amount already going to Police and Fire from the General Fund remained the same. The second was a Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee and she recalled the Board was promised both and as a citizen of this community, she feels citizens have a right to know how that tax money is being spent. She added, generalizations from the City about buying a new fire truck or working on plans for new stations just doesn't quite cut it for her. She mentioned hearing things about Police and Fire not being able to share facilities because they don't get along which is quite frankly unacceptable. Ms. Seay mentioned filing a Freedom of Information Act Request in which she requested expenditures, bank statements, balance sheets, income and any other information for the use of the public safety sales tax for 2019. She was given 12 bank statements with check numbers redacted and no way to cross reference them. She was also given balance sheets that don't match the bank statements and a very generic statement of revenue expenses and a change in fund balance sheet. Ms. Seay said she was not given any invoices or actual expenses, but what she did see on the bank statements was a \$3 million wire out transfer with no way to know or explanation of where that money went. Additionally, a \$500,000 wire out transfer and several checks that were written, but didn't seem to match anything on any disbursement that she could find that was approved by this Board. Ms. Seay said she was told the \$163.94 she was charged to get this generic information was based on the average wage for the Finance Department for 3.3 hours of work. She commented if that's true, that means the average wage in the Finance Department is \$49.68 per hour or \$103,000.00 a year, surely not. She referred to section 610.026 of the Missouri Revised

Statutes (RSMo) which requires the public governmental body to use the lowest salaried employee capable of searching and researching the records. She added, so either we have a very generously paid Finance Department or the cost was artificially inflated to try to prevent taxpayers like herself from getting information. She said she wants to be clear she is not suggesting that there are improprieties taking place from this tax money, she just wants to ensure there's not a repeat of the Highway 76 Project in which the City was borrowing funds from one account with hopes of paying them off with money that never came in. Ms. Seay commented that got the City in trouble before and could get it in trouble again and she feels the money in the Public Safety Tax Fund should stay in that fund and hopes that is the case. She mentioned making a second request for invoices and information that will show how the public safety sales tax has been spent and she's been told that she will be given an estimate by the Finance Department for her additional request. She's guessing she'll get an additional bill on top of the \$164.00 she's already paid to get what she asked for in the beginning. Ms. Seay stated if there was an oversight committee all of this information would be online like all the other committees and taxpayers like herself would not have to pay absorbent fees to get basic information. She hopes this Board will make that change in transparency and ensure taxpayers have access to this information without being charged hundreds of dollars.

Marshall Howden, 106 Rose Oneill Drive, Branson, Missouri, said he rises this evening to pay tribute to one of Branson's greatest legends who has taught children invaluable life lessons and spent 28 years as a leader in the community. He announced Coach Steve Hancock has returned to the sidelines of the Branson Pirates in a football assistance role. Mr. Howden mentioned he and his brother played for Coach Hancock who always felt like family to him and in those nearly three decades at the helm, the Branson Pirates went 198 and 108, including 12 playoff appearances, six straight beginning in 1993. Mr. Howden feels his greatest moments as a coach came in 1987 and 1989, when the Branson Pirates finished as the runner-up for the Missouri State Championship both years. He noted 1987 was only Coach Hancock's second season and the game in 1987 at Mizzou Faurot Field wasn't close. He explained the Pirates returned two years later, lead by all-time great Dan Kneeshaw and lost the state title by only two points. Mr. Howden reported Coach Hancock is the only coach in Missouri State history to make the 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A state playoffs and there were also state semi-final appearances in 1996 and 1997 and a great run through sections in 1998. Mr. Howden mentioned his brother Phil set the single season Branson interception records with 7 and record for interceptions returned for a touchdown with 2 which are records that still stand to this day as well as being the only year the Pirates defeated the powerhouse Webb City. He mentioned Coach Hancock was inducted into the Missouri Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. In addition, he served as the Missouri Football Coaches' Association President for two years, won the inaugural Pete Atkins Power of Influence Award in 2010 from that same organization and then was honored with the Branson Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Award. Mr. Howden explained Coach Hancock was never unapproachable, always had a great sense of humor and was kind with a loving paternal demeanor. He mentioned when Coach Hancock left Branson to become the head coach of the Springfield Catholic Fighting Irish in 2014, he recalled the moment when Branson running back Dan Kneeshaw received recruiting interest from Notre Dame and its coach Lou Holtz. He recalled Coach Hancock was invited for the spring football and he remembers looking at Coach Holtz thinking it would be nice to be a Fighting Irish someday. He feels while it wasn't quite Notre Dame, Coach Hancock got his chance to be a Fighting Irish in Springfield and is home now and will forever be a Branson Pirate. He asked if everyone could join him in giving Steve Hancock a deserved round of applause.

Gail Myer, 365 Whisper Ridge, Branson, Missouri, mentioned he'd like to give an update on the Community Improvement District (CID) as he has some good news. He reported it's getting close to obtaining the number of signatures the Board wanted the CID to get and he reminded everyone it needed 86. After review by the attorneys, there are 90 signatures and the Board was prudent and said it wanted 92 because there may be some technical flaws. He reported it had 92, but found a couple of technical flaws so today there are 90 signatures. Once it gets two more signatures, the CID wants to present the petition to the City Clerk. He gave kudos to the City Clerk and mentioned having some really good discussions about the process and how that should happen which he feels good about. He said a little bit of bad news is he knows there are four people that have signatures whose support has at least temporarily been lost because of the actions of City Council and the CID is working to get back. Mr. Myer expressed his unhappiness with this and hopes it makes the Board unhappy as well. He knows the Board has been dealing with \$1.5 million for public utilities undergrounding in its budget and knows it has passed seven times and

it still doesn't have that done. He commented that issue has become divisive and he suggested the Board withdraw the issue for a couple of meetings, get back to City business and then bring it back. The practical reality is now it would not spend that money until the fourth quarter of this year anyway. He asked the Board to consider there are five contracts with separate utilities and a couple of those are broken out on design and then build. Mr. Myer mentioned speaking to City Administrator Stan Dobbins about working with Finance Director Jamie Rouch and Public Works Director and City Engineer Keith Francis on dividing those contracts into design and build. He explained the design would cost much less and it wouldn't be wasted money to get the design done and when the time is right then the Board can agree on the actual expenditure for build. He thinks it's logical and would be a lot less money than \$1.5 million. He commented if there's an opportunity to talk about this later, he's happy to answer questions.

Betsy Seay, 1880 Pointe Royale Drive, Branson, Missouri, responded to the Board's questions regarding what information she found included on the City's website and she explained what it has is very generic for the Public Safety Fund, Police \$5.6 million and Fire \$4.8 million. She commented there's nothing out there which was what the Board was promised with the oversight committee, as specific expenditures would come to the oversight committee so the general public who voted for this tax could see where every dollar was going. Ms. Seay said that is what she had asked for and it is not on the internet; it is not being provided by Finance, so it is not out there.

Gabriella Chrisman, 138 Rose Oneill Drive, Branson, Missouri, said she's interested in listening to this young lady because she feels people do have the right to know where their money has gone, even if it's just \$129.00. She feels that's very irresponsible because people work hard for their money, want to pay their taxes and see the City build, but losing all this money and not knowing where it is going just shook her. She added, checks were written and Betsy Seay didn't know what they were for.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Akers stated it's my responsibility as Mayor under state law to take care of the ordinances of our City and the state laws relating to our City are complied with. Under one of our ordinances, Branson Municipal Code 2-64, I am tasked with the responsibility of being the Presiding Officer of the Board and am required to preserve strict order and decorum of the meetings. The citizens of Branson elected us to make decisions on all policy matters and to make those decisions by voting. We are obligated to vote unless a conflict of interest prevents us from doing so. The common law of the State of Missouri supports this. Although I cannot force any member of the Board to cast a vote, and no member can be required to cast a vote, I do have the ability to control the order and decorum of these meetings. As a result, I'm announcing under my authority to preserve order and decorum of these meetings and any abstention by any member of the Board during this meeting will be recast as a no vote.

Mayor Akers asked if there were any citizens who had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Hearing none. Mayor Akers asked if any member of the Board had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none. Mayor Akers asked City Clerk Lisa Westfall to read the items on the Consent Agenda. City Clerk Lisa Westfall read the following Consent Agenda items by title.

Approval of Board of Aldermen Minutes:

- a) January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting

Acknowledge Receipt of Minutes:

- a) Park Board meeting of November 19, 2019
- b) Human Resources Committee meeting of November 27, 2019

Acknowledge Receipt of Annexation Petition filed for:

- a) Property located at 150 Gunner Hill Lane, Branson, Missouri
- b) Property located at 3855 Fall Creek Road, Branson, Missouri

**BILL NO. 5766**

**Ord. No. 2020-0013**

**Amending Appendix A of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Lodging Establishment, Swimming Pools and Spas, and Health and Sanitation Fees.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5766, an ordinance amending Appendix A of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Lodging Establishment, Swimming Pools and Spas, and Health and Sanitation Fees was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0013 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5767**

**Ord. No. 2020-0014**

**Amending the adopted 2020 Budget for the City of Branson to adjust monies for the Public Safety Fund.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5767, an ordinance amending the adopted 2020 Budget for the City of Branson to adjust monies for the Public Safety Fund was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0014 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5768**

**Ord. No. 2020-0015**

**Approving a contract with Metrohm USA to provide a handheld narcotics analyzer with maintenance services.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5768, an ordinance approving a contract with Metrohm USA to provide a handheld narcotics analyzer with maintenance services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0015 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5769**

**Ord. No. 2020-0016**

**Approving a contract with Ed Roehr Safety Products Co. to provide Active Shooter, Hostile Event Response Kits.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5769, an ordinance approving a contract with Ed Roehr Safety Products Co. to provide Active Shooter, Hostile Event Response Kits and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0016 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5770**

**Ord. No. 2020-0017**

**Accepting a Warranty Deed for property from BH Land Company, LLC pertaining to the Summit Ridge Residences Subdivision.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5770, an ordinance accepting a Warranty Deed for property from BH Land Company, LLC pertaining to the Summit Ridge Residences Subdivision and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Acceptance of Conveyance was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0017 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5771**  
**Ord. No. 2020-0018**

**Accepting the proposal of the Salvation Army pertaining to the provision of services to provide temporary public assistance.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5771, an ordinance accepting the proposal of the Salvation Army pertaining to the provision of services to provide temporary public assistance and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0018 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5772**  
**Ord. No. 2020-0019**

**Approving a contract with S & S Pumping, Inc. to accept holding tank and special waste for treatment at the Branson Wastewater Treatment Facilities.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5772, an ordinance approving a contract with S & S Pumping, Inc. to accept holding tank and special waste for treatment at the Branson Wastewater Treatment Facilities and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0019 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5773**  
**Ord. No. 2020-0020**

**Authorizing an agreement with SW Missouri Engineering LLC, dba Cochran, for professional design services for replacement of the Lift Station #17 forcemain.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5773, an ordinance authorizing an agreement with SW Missouri Engineering LLC, dba Cochran, for professional design services for replacement of the Lift Station #17 forcemain and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0020 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO 5774**  
**Ord. No. 2020-0021**

**Authorizing an agreement with SW Missouri Engineering LLC, dba Cochran, for professional design services to engineer upgrades for the Spring Creek water and sewer systems.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5774, an ordinance authorizing an agreement with SW Missouri Engineering LLC, dba Cochran, for professional design services to engineer upgrades for the Spring Creek water and sewer systems and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0021 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO 5775**  
**Ord. No. 2020-0022**

**Amending Appendix A of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Utilities Fee Schedule.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5775, an ordinance amending Appendix A of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to Utilities Fee Schedule was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0022 was duly enacted.

Mayor Akers opened the floor for a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Alderman Skains moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Milton. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **Presentation of 2020 Marketing Plan of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB.**

A Presentation of the 2020 Marketing Plan of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB was provided by Rachel Wood. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-R001**

#### **Approving the Marketing Budget of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.**

A Resolution approving the Marketing Budget of the Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was provided by Finance Director Jamie Rouch. Mayor Akers asked for a motion adopting the resolution. Alderman Skains moved to adopt, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the resolution. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: None. Motion carried. Resolution No. 2020-R001 was adopted.

### **Discussion on additional Marketing Study.**

Mayor Akers began a discussion on additional Marketing Study and a staff report was provided by City Administrator Stan Dobbins. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Jeff Seifried, 3100 N. Gretna Road, Branson, Missouri, introduced himself as the President and CEO of the Branson Chamber and CVB. He stated they have not received the Request for Proposal (RFP) or scope that was sent out by the City which would be the first thing they'd like to request to better understand what the City is trying to achieve. He respectfully requested before the Board moves forward there would be a discussion about the methodology or what's trying to be accomplished so he can better inform the Board during this process. He explained the process deployed is a community-based marketing plan, meaning the community provides input that drives the outcomes. What he doesn't want to do or need to make a decision on, is usurp the community-based part of that. He explained what this might look like by breaking it into a couple of segments. The first segment is, it would be appropriate to have the District Marketing Council (DMC) that oversees the day-to-day of this community marketing plan to educate the Board on the methodology, what they're trying to accomplish, the processes and all the work that goes into that. Mr. Seifried feels that would be helpful to better guide the Board. The second segment is make sure it's understood and agreed with the TCED, Chamber Board and this body that we would have a community-based marketing plan with community input. He doesn't know what \$50,000.00 will get since an RFP has not been submitted for any commentary or review. In response to Alderman Milton's question, he stated he thinks the taxpayers spend money because it's a requirement of the State of Missouri that we conduct a marketing effectiveness study every year. He mentioned that report was just presented today at DMC which shines a light on if we are being effective with our dollars and accomplishing what we set out to accomplish. He added, so that is kind of the metric being looked at and if the Board is asking if its looking at market effectiveness and doing the right things, that's the kind of barometer it looks at and that study already exists through the requirement with the State of Missouri which is presented every year through the Community

Marketing Presentation, March 24th of this year. Mr. Seifried said he thinks there could be some parallels of what's being talked about and he would like to better educate himself on the RFP that went out. He responded to Alderman Milton's comments and stated he's correct in that there was a change made a number of years ago at the request of the TCED Board and the Chamber Board to streamline the Marketing Advisory Committee into a committee that had term limits so they could rotate people who have marketing experience through this board which is called the District Marketing Council. They meet throughout the year to provide direction, so from his prospective the Marketing Advisory Council has evolved and has not gone away. He explained the goal was to provide better input and more opportunity for members of the community to actually sit on the Board. He stated there were people sitting on the Board for over 15 years and they wanted more turnover over time. He said he just wanted to be cautious to say that they haven't totally gotten rid of the input process. He mentioned he Chair of the District Marketing Council is in the audience and they take this very seriously. Mr. Seifried said he'd like the opportunity to re-educate the Board on what they're focused on, what their methodology is and some of their outcomes.

Gail Myer, 365 Whisper Ridge, Branson, Missouri, agreed with Alderman Milton's comments and said the model they had was much better as it was more community focused. He recalled there was a time when he was Chairman of the Member Marketing Advisory Committee for Best Western Worldwide and he never met an advertising agency that made a mistake. He added, they always get up and tell you how good they did but they never made a mistake because it is not part of their DNA. He believes it's okay to have a third party look at effectiveness and opportunities and agrees with Mr. Seifried on the need to be involved in what it is the City's going to accomplish. He feels everyone needs to work together on this from day one to find out what's missing and to be effective. He said he doesn't believe it's appropriate to put a dollar amount on that yet, as the City needs to do a good job of figuring out what it wants to accomplish and then put it out there and see what comes back. He added, there has to be a group of people who have the expertise to be able to craft that. Mr. Myer commented the debate is, should it be DMC or somebody else and he isn't sure that isn't over thinking it. He feels everyone should work together as the community will like it and everyone is really good when they work together.

Marshall Howden, 106 Rose Oneill, Branson, Missouri, reminded everyone this is in accordance with Bill No. 5599. He knows this bill wasn't passed unanimously and there isn't total agreement by the Board, but he wants to make sure that's put into context of what's being talked about here. He understands the purpose was to give a year so the City could look at who it's marketing its dollars with and how that's being used effectively. Mr. Howden commented he kind of falls on the side of the third party as opposed to possible coordination, because of the original purpose which was giving this year to make sure to do this the right way. He added, he wanted to put that out there to kind of put context to this.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion.

**BILL NO. 5732  
DEFEATED**

**Amending the adopted 2019 Budget for the City of Branson, to adjust monies for the Tourism and Capital Projects Funds.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5732, an ordinance amending the adopted 2019 Budget for the City of Branson, to adjust monies for the Tourism and Capital Projects Funds was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its Final Reading during the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. It is in need of a motion, second and vote.

**Alderman McConnell recused himself from the meeting at 7:14 p.m. He clarified it's due to a specific conflict of interest and is not an abstention.**

A staff report was provided by Finance Director Jamie Rouch. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5732. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Jeff Seifried, 3100 N Gretna, Branson, Missouri, said the Board is in an awkward spot and this issue has been publicly dealt with for quite some time. He said he thinks there's general resolve to get this project done and there is great excitement in the community to get these powerlines buried and he's not hearing anything from the business community to say different. He thinks the Board is in a tough spot and from what he understands to be correct, some Aldermen might be willing to support this once the City Clerk and the CID have gone through the process of formalizing and certifying the signatures. He said he didn't know if the Board member's phones have been ringing off the hook, but his has particularly to this issue. He asked the Board to consider tabling this item until it's gone through a certification process with the City Clerk. Mr. Seifried said he did not get to visit with Mr. Myer about this and he doesn't know if a couple of months is going to make or break the project. He explained Mr. Myer said earlier that more importantly we don't lose ground on working with the utility partners to continue the planning process. He feels the Board is in a tough spot and he requested it table this until the City Clerk has had a chance to certify the CID signatures for the Board's consideration.

Gail Myer, 365 Whisper Ridge, Branson, Missouri, reported it's getting close so it's time to figure out roles, goals and planning and walk Highway 76 as a group. He explained they need to wait until they're confident the weather is better, but told the Board to get ready. Mr. Myers feels if he told the Board what he really felt was going on it would be risky, so all he will tell them is to just relax a little bit, get back to City business and heal with each other and work together. He believes everyone is really good as a community when they work together.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons and Skains. Nays: Milton. Abstain: Castillon. Absent: McConnell. Mayor Akers stated I am declaring under my authority to preserve order and decorum in these meetings and uphold the ordinances of the City that the abstention cast by Alderman Castillon is to be recast as a no vote in the record of this matter. City Clerk Lisa Westfall announced with the recast of the vote there is now a vote of 3 ayes and 2 nays and for a final reading there needs to be 4 votes. Motion failed.

**Alderman McConnell returned to the meeting at 7:31 p.m.**

**BILL NO. 5676**

**Ord. No. 2020-0023**

**Approving an agreement between CenturyLink Communications, LLC and the City of Branson relating to relocation costs of CenturyLink Telecommunication Facilities relating to the Highway 76 Country Boulevard Improvements Project.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5676, an ordinance approving an agreement between CenturyLink Communications, LLC and the City of Branson relating to relocation costs of CenturyLink Telecommunication Facilities relating to the Highway 76 Country Boulevard Improvements Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its Final Reading during the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. It is in need of a motion, second and vote. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5676. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, and Skains. Nays: Milton and Castillon. Motion carried. Mayor Akers announced it passes, but there is no funding for this item. City Attorney Chris Lebeck referenced the Missouri Constitution which states all contracts shall be subject to appropriation by the Board. He explained there are no funds appropriated for this item.

**BILL NO. 5677**

**DEFEATED**

**Approving a Special Construction Proposal between CenturyLink and the City of Branson relating to engineering design costs of CenturyLink relating to the Highway 76 Country Boulevard Improvements Project.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5677, an ordinance approving a Special Construction Proposal between CenturyLink and the City of Branson relating to engineering design costs of CenturyLink relating to the Highway 76 Country Boulevard Improvements Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract



was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its Final Reading during the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting. It is in need of a motion, second and vote. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5677. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Simmons. Voting aye: Simmons. Nays: McConnell, Clonts, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Motion failed.

**BILL NO. 5398  
DEFEATED**

**Approving a Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to a donation of a Lighthouse Memorial Monument for Old School Park.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5398, an ordinance approving a Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to a donation of a Lighthouse Memorial Monument for Old School Park and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. She stated this bill was postponed on its Final Reading during the January 8, 2019 Regular Meeting. It is in need of a motion, second and vote. She stated Mayor, we have received a letter from the Tri-Lakes Board of Realtors which reads as follows (See attached). Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No 5398. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Simmons. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: none. Nays: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Motion failed.

**RESOLUTION NO.  
2020- R002**

**Consenting to the Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Ballparks of America, LLC and Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust Company as Attorney-in-Fact for Ballparks of Branson, LLC.**

A Resolution consenting to the Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Ballparks of America, LLC and Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust Company as Attorney-in-Fact for Ballparks of Branson, LLC was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was provided by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion adopting the resolution. Alderman Castillon moved to adopt, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Marshall Howden, 106 Rose Oneill Drive, Branson, Missouri, asked if National Sports Venue planned on keeping the same theme, operating procedure and ballfields.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Mayor Akers called for a vote on the resolution. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: None. Motion carried. Resolution No. 2020-R002 was adopted.

**BILL NO. 5776**

**Amending the adopted 2020 Budget for the City of Branson, to adjust monies for the General Fund.**

First Reading of Bill No. 5776, an ordinance amending the adopted 2020 Budget for the City of Branson, to adjust monies for the General Fund was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5776. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**Approving the Ground Lease Agreement between the City of Branson and Ballparks of America LLC.**

First Reading of Bill No. 5777, an ordinance approving the Ground Lease Agreement between the City of Branson and Ballparks of America LLC and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck.

**Alderman Castillon left the meeting at 7:50 p.m. and returned at 7:51 p.m.**

Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5777. Alderman McConnell so moved, seconded by Alderman Simmons. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter.

Marshall Howden, 106 Rose Oneill Drive, Branson, Missouri, stated obviously the idea to have tenants was originally in the ideas and kind of came to fruition. He mentioned Cakes-n-Creams was in there along with a few other things and he feels it would be great to fill it with tenants, with the ultimate goal of having this succeed as best as we can. He asked for consideration to continue to allow the local Firefighter's Union to operate out of that facility and brought it to the Board's attention that when candidates met with them a few weeks ago, there was some uncertainty about this.

Gail Myer, 365 Whisper Ridge, Branson, Missouri, said he believes it was confided to the Lodging Association about the intent of lodging on the facility. What he heard City Attorney Chris Lebeck say is that the City has taken away all the restrictions which are two different things. He asked for the intent to be put in the agreement because there is always friction when there's tax help to an entity or an area for lodging when everyone doesn't get it. Mr. Myer added, so if that is the intent just codify it in the agreement.

Paul Satterwhite, Springfield, Missouri, introduced himself as a dad, attorney, loyal southwest Missouri resident and baseball coach who is passionate about youth sports. He feels youth sports can not only benefit a community, but can change a kid and adult's life. He said he loved the speech Mr. Howden gave earlier about his coach. He said that is his life's passion and while he likes being an attorney, he loves being a part of sports. He mentioned a group of four guys from Springfield who feel the same way has been put together and mentioned he was on Ballparks of America's fields the first time they had a tournament. Mr. Satterwhite mentioned coaching his kids and was there for their first premium summer tournament and he's been on those fields as a coach and is very confident. His kids have played about 80 games out of Springfield, Missouri, on those fields and what he's observed is that the place cannot be what it was without the fields. He added, everything else about it, from the parking lot, to the facilities, to the shape they were in, to the overall experience, to what they were communicating about the City of Branson, to the failure to really partner with people concerned him. He believed it could be done better, but he never thought he'd be a part of doing it until this sort of fell into their laps two months ago. His concern was that there wouldn't be the opportunity for this place to be available, not only for people here, but all over the country. Over the last three years through the summers, he's seen amazing memories being made for kids from California, Alabama, Michigan, and for his kids who have been able to come and have the opportunity to spend that time. Mr. Satterwhite said his son is 13 and he won't play again at that place after this summer; he is not doing it for his son and he is not going to probably coach kids after this year on these fields, but he believes it can make a difference for this community. He also believes they can do it so much better and the \$13 million in economic impact someone mentioned earlier is only a very start of what can be done here. He mentioned being in conversations with two national operators and will be picking from two that are fighting to be here. He added, that is how excited they are about Branson and this project. He reported they have databases of approximately 150,000 to 200,000 teams which is something the last group didn't have available to them. He explained they are going to pay for their services and it's going to cost a big part of what's being put into this, but they believe that's what is necessary for this to happen. He mentioned none of the four guys want to operate this and don't believe it needs to be operated by a sports dad, but believes it needs to be operated by people who understand this industry, understand how to make the most out of this industry and are motivated to sell this City nationally, as a vacation destination and as an opportunity to make a lifetime memory for kids and families. This is their motivation and what they want to do. He

mentioned splitting the parking lot cost and explained if the parking lot doesn't look better it's an embarrassment to the City and anyone who drives up there for the price they're paying to come play on the fields. Mr. Satterwhite commented his wife is very much in favor of fixing the restrooms since negative reviews are typically from the moms over the restrooms, so they're going to take care of that right away. He commented on the landscaping and said he's a firm believer in flowers and paint and feels it makes the moms happy and makes the place look better. He commented the landscaping hasn't been touched in three years and \$25,000.00 isn't going to make a dent in what needs to be done with the landscaping. He added, they haven't said they are going to match it because they believe they are going to spend significantly more than \$25,000.00 and is just asking the Board to make the first effort on that and to help them maintain it so it can be something to be proud of. He mentioned speaking to City Attorney Lebeck regarding the City being partners and not just a landlord and shared the goal is to find a place for what needs to be out there. There is a lot of space and maybe the space may not be the best space if it's in the center of tournament operations, but that's not going to happen this year. Mr. Satterwhite commented they're going to have time to make decisions on what the right spot is, but there will be a place as they want to be a partner and do this the right way. He addressed Mr. Myer's questions regarding the hotel and said they have no intention of building a hotel right now. If they can fill hotels in Branson that's their first goal as they want to bring people to hotels and lodging opportunities in Branson. He said if they get to the point where it's necessary and needed, they want to have that opportunity. He doesn't think they will have any problems or concerns with the lodging folks and they won't be asking the City for money to assist with that if they ever get there, but that is not in the plans. He shared the short-term and medium-term plans are to increase the number of teams to fill the existing opportunities, partner with community organizations and community businesses that are here. He added, they are not particularly concerned about that piece and explained what they may do is use it for families when their kids are staying in the suites. They have seen a few kids get left out because their parents don't want them to stay in the suites as they're not comfortable with it. He said they have located some opportunities in existing space to give families the opportunity to stay with their child playing on a team who does not have the opportunity to stay in the team suite because the family is not completely comfortable with it. He further explained, they'd be taking some of the existing space and making that available and they don't have any intention of building something that would compete with the existing hotels. Mr. Satterwhite said he wants to speak briefly about what they've been able to do through this three month dark period where Ballparks itself has not been marketing their tournaments. He mentioned they have not been active on Facebook because they have not been in control of the facility and what they have done is work to try and make sure teams were still in place. So even though they haven't had the opportunity be in control of this, they've worked with the bank and some of the former employees of Ballparks to make sure there are teams available. He reported there are 150 teams registered as of right now for the summer tournaments and that's without his company being able to be actively involved. They have a plan in place with the entities they use to actively market for the next month, but this is the time these decisions are made. As someone who coaches and makes the decision, we are right in the middle of the prime season to get this done with these teams. He mentioned asking for this to be considered tonight and the potential of a double read in order to actively get out there, get this closed and get marketing going in the next week to bring in those remaining teams. Mr. Satterwhite said the number he's heard is 150 summer teams which is not scientific, but is based on a couple of communications he's had from national entities and from the CVB. He added, 150 teams in the summer equals \$5.1 million in economic impact in itself. There's a lot of the shoulder season he really wants to focus on and one of the things he's most concerned about is they haven't done what could be done in the shoulder seasons. He explained fall has not been touched at all and he's helped run the only tournaments for kids in the fall for the last three years as a charity tournament out of Springfield. He mentioned bringing in 35 teams, 20 of which have stayed in hotels and he believes it can be much better in the fall, bringing in outside teams that would spend their money in those shoulder seasons. He believes these fields aren't being used enough in the spring and the fall. He stated he is almost embarrassed as he brought his team down here through booking relationships with the prior owners to practice and those places are dead and aren't used at all in the spring. He wants to change that, not only with tournaments but also with people in Branson as they want to work out a public use relationship with the City of Branson where every day of the week those fields are being used. He added, they don't care if it's soccer, football or softball games, that's a resource that should not be empty. If kids or adults can be playing, that is the goal and is what they want to see from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. There is going to be some down time, but they want public use of these fields and to draw people in from surrounding communities who are going to buy dinner at one of the restaurants

while they are here. He said that's their vision for use, why they're here asking for what they asked for today and why they'll continue to work to try to be a community partner with the City of Branson. In response to the Board's questions, Mr. Satterwhite stated if there's a way to allow lodging in the existing facilities as he described for the families, but require approval for a hotel even if it was owned by us, he thinks they would be open to that. He added, they would be open to the Board's approval of that and the requirement to come back to the Board if that would satisfy the City. Mr. Satterwhite mentioned working with City Attorney Chris Lebeck on the issue of public use of the facilities and the goal is to be ready by the next meeting. He explained he's spoke to Parks and Recreation Director Cindy Shook before the meeting and he feels the hope is they could be a good partner of the City which includes a partner with Parks. Mr. Satterwhite said they are going to handle the negotiations and wants to bring who the operator is to this organization if they can; the goal is to have that done in the next week. It's just as much as a timing issue as this is, getting the property is the first piece before they can enter into an agreement with the operator. He said they're happy to bring a representative here, but really what they're looking at is two different models, one would be a self-contained operation by a national operator where they are doing the operation and we are handling the rest of the property, but we aren't certain we can get as much public use out of that one. The other one would be an operation where we are much more involved with that specific operator and they are just working through the terms of both of those to see which one will work best for this property, which one has the most to offer this City, the most to offer the teams that they bring in and where the best benefit will be seen to the overall project. He reported they are pretty close and closing on this deal is really the focus at the moment. As soon they're through that, the next purpose is the operator. He explained the situation to the Board and said the reason the bank has the property right now is partially because this is a very expensive complex as it's a complex much more than five fields. They have access to and have been provided the financials for all four years that they've been somewhat in operation and to make the numbers add up you need both what is in line with our vision and a public use component to fund it. He said they're coming back to the Board to ask for funding that will provide for that public use that is much less expensive than building even one field. He stated they were asking for that as an access, there are two different designs, if it is the self-contained operator you will be making that payment to that operator because they will be taking on all the expenses of the fields and baseball operations. They will have some related expenses, but it's a different model and if it's the operator that is selected that is working directly with us, we will receive those use funds because we will be responsible for all expenses. The entire budget will be theirs and they will be paying a separate line item to the operator for what they are doing, so it is two models and where those funds are actually paid will depend on which operator is chosen and is why it's not on the agenda tonight. The situation on closing depends on partners making financial sense, because we want to do these significant improvements is the commitment from this Board on the lease as amended. He explained it's very difficult to close and if we don't close we lose teams and if we lose teams we may not be able to go forward with this project. This has been delayed a month more than it should have been already and time is of the essence on making it happen. He explained they're willing to close with the belief the City will want to partner for public use and they're willing to take that risk. He added, but we are not able to close if we are uncertain if this lease in its amended form will take place because that puts us behind the eight ball on what we are able to do. He said they don't have a vision of operating it the way it is right now and don't have the vision of it looking like it has the last couple of years, because we don't think that benefits the City even though it brings some revenues. Mr. Satterwhite said he wanted to speak to the \$5.1 million and explained that's just for the 150 teams and has nothing to do with what the Cal Ripken World Series brings in or the shoulder season teams. He was speaking merely for the teams signed up for summer events right now. He mentioned they've been working behind the scenes and are actually ahead of pace for last year and have more national teams registered right now. He explained the numbers provided before haven't always been national teams as a lot of those teams that have been built into their numbers are local teams. He reported there are more national teams signed up right now than they had come in any of their first three years. He mentioned they have a benchmarked goal for 200 teams this summer and believes if they can get this started tomorrow they can get to that point. He believes they can increase by 50 teams and part of that is from conversations with national operators who believe they can account for 30 to 40 in this short-term turnaround and with national operations we can account for 10 to 15 more national teams. Mr. Satterwhite clarified there's going to be many more teams, but he's talking about national teams coming here, spending a week here and looking to spend their money in a way other teams don't necessarily spend their bucks here. In response to the Board's questions regarding access for locals, he said he would speak to three different areas of local use. In winter, spring and fall the place is essentially empty Monday thru

Thursday and most of the time on those shoulder seasons, Monday thru Friday. There are a team or two who practice and run a softball tournament here or there, but for the most part it's empty and we want that to change. We want those fields to be available for use by teams that need practices, for running leagues not competitive leagues, different leagues that maybe the Parks and Recreation Department wants to put in there. He added, maybe leagues that will be operated by the national operator, but that are for local and a few of the outside areas around Branson to come in and play and use the fields. Fall is tough for baseball around here. As a baseball coach he knows how hard it is because football and soccer are king in the fall and he sees those fields as an opportunity to spill over; maybe it's practice for a football team that can't get practice on certain days. Maybe it is a situation where someone wants to have a birthday party and use those fields. Mr. Satterwhite said they see multiple opportunities, but they just need people to use them and the best thing about that facility are the five fields. He stated, a whole lot of money was spent to build those five fields and they are tremendous and the kids who play on them and parents who watch them talk about those fields. We want to maximize those resources and one thing they are in deep conversations about and talking to the national operators about is a not-for-profit to be a companion to this that would help give access to play. To give access to these kids to be in the summer and fall tournaments who can't otherwise afford to participate in these tournaments and have that experience. He added, and to give them the opportunity to be on those fields and put on some tournaments that might not be at that same level where they are coming in and getting embarrassed because they are playing those national teams. Where they're able to play teams that are at their level, but have the same experience in those tournaments. He reported they've had a lot of conversations about that because that is part of the dream and the third element is really looking at what other community events can be done out there. Cal Ripken and the Babe Ruth League has been a great partner of this City and with that event they acquired an \$80,000.00 video board that sits over the St. Louis scoreboard. One of their visions is that there would be numerous times during the year when the community would be invited to have a movie on that large video board that was donated, and to be able to have access in the park for those types of events. He mentioned talking with national operators about having concerts and music festivals held on the grounds and other opportunities as a community centric space right off of Highway 76. He explained these events would drive people to the surrounding businesses as well as into the park and they see this as a real community use opportunity as well. He added, this would be use of resources that are already there and bring more resources into the park.

Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion.

**Alderman Simmons left the meeting at 8:16 p.m. and returned at 8:18 p.m.**

Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Alderman Castillon moved to read Bill No. 5777 for its final reading, seconded by Alderman Milton. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none. Mayor Akers asked for Comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5777, an ordinance approving the Ground Lease Agreement between the City of Branson and Ballparks of America LLC and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5777. Alderman Milton so moved, seconded by Alderman Castillon. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none. Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. No discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0024 was duly enacted.

**BILL NO. 5778**

**Amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to persons under 21 years of age prohibited from the purchase of tobacco products and prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age.**

First Reading of Bill No. 5778, an ordinance amending Chapter 58 of the Branson Municipal Code pertaining to persons under 21 years of age prohibited from the purchase of tobacco products and prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5778. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons and Skains. Nays: McConnell, Milton and Castillon. City Clerk Westfall announced there is a tie vote and the Mayor now votes to break the tie. Voting aye: Akers. Nays: none. Motion carried.

#### **BILL NO. 5779**

##### **Approving the contract with Don Brown Chevrolet pertaining to purchase of a 2020 Chevy Tahoe PPV for the Police Departments K9 Unit.**

First Reading of Bill No. 5779, an ordinance approving the contract with Don Brown Chevrolet pertaining to purchase of a 2020 Chevy Tahoe PPV for the Police Departments K9 Unit and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Police Chief Jeff Matthews. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5779. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Castillon. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none. Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

#### **BILL NO. 5780**

##### **Approving the contract with Clifton Larson Allen LLP pertaining to auditing services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract.**

First Reading of Bill No. 5780, an ordinance approving the contract with Clifton Larson Allen LLP pertaining to auditing services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Finance Director Jamie Rouch. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5780. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains and Milton. Nays: Castillon. Motion carried.

## **MAYOR/ALDERMEN/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS**

Alderman Castillon reminded everyone of the upcoming election and asked them to think about what they post on Facebook and to think about what they say to organizations. He feels it's not anyone's call to go to an organization and tell them they are not to pick a candidate.

Mayor Akers commented there are a lot of positive things going on out there and mentioned having an opportunity to speak to different organizations and talk about where the City is. He commented the total debt of the City right now is \$190 million, \$98.5 million of that is the Branson Landing Tax Increment Financing (TIF), \$47.8 million is the Branson Hills TIF, \$28 million is the Branson Meadows and other special TIFs, \$10 million is certificate of participation loans for the 76 Revitalization Project and \$5.8 million is for tourism-related projects. He explained that is the debt of the City and there are results through December coming in and the City really won't know those until probably about the 10th of February. He stated the City knows it's up in sales tax revenue, the general sales tax, but it doesn't know where it's going to be on the tourism tax as it's waiting for the information. He reported for a large part it has been a good year because of all the things that are going on and there is almost \$1 billion of new projects in the pipeline from the economic side of the Chamber of Commerce providing the information. Mayor Akers commented there are a lot of people interested in this City and watching what goes on in this City. Public Officials are

public servants who live in glass houses and he encouraged everyone to try and make sure the City is run professionally and done in a proper decorum manner.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Akers asked for a motion to go into closed executive session. Alderman Simmons moved to go into closed executive session pursuant to 610.021.2 RSMo for real estate and 610.021.3 RSMo for personnel, seconded by Alderman Skains. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried.

## ADJOURN

Mayor Akers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Castillon moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Milton. Voting aye: McConnell, Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.



E. Edd Akers  
Mayor



Lisa Westfall  
City Clerk



Jan 28, 2020 Meeting

Item No. 20



Dear Mayor Akers,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding the Tri-Lakes Board of REALTORS® participation in the Lighthouse Memorial Project. We at the Tri-Lakes Board of REALTORS® are still in support of a Memorial in honor of the victims of the unfortunate accident on Table Rock Lake.

We were prepared to support the project; however, at this time our Place Making Grant is no longer available for funds and we would need to have Board approval to reapply for new funds once a plan from the City of Branson was approved.

It was decided by our Board of Directors, when the project was tabled, that we would withdraw from spearheading this project and allow the City of Branson to take the lead for any future endeavors.

Again, we appreciate you contacting us and would be delighted to come alongside the City of Branson once a plan had been approved by the City and we had something to present again to our Board of Directors in regards to applying for a Place Making Grant.

Sincerely,

Gerrie Moore, President  
Tri-Lakes Board of REALTORS®, Inc.  
Tri-Lakes MLS, Inc.

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